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LEUX

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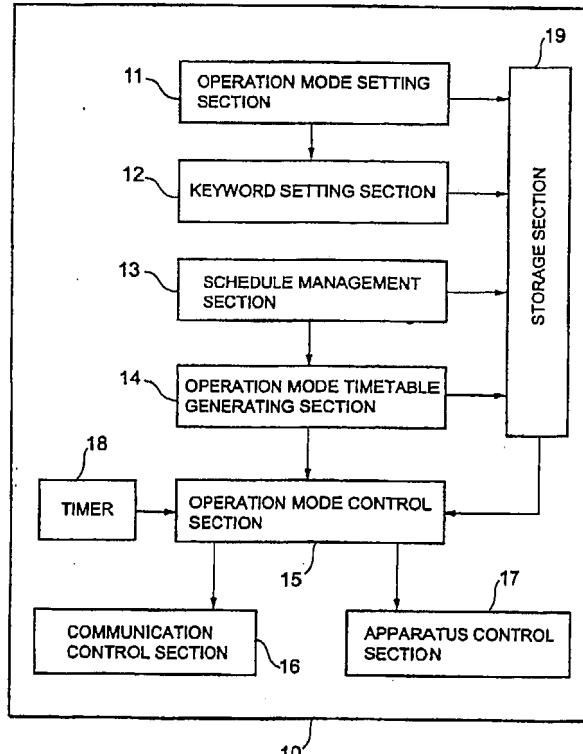
Online: WPI, EPODOC, PAJ, IEEE and selected internet
sites

(54) Abstract Title

Operation mode scheduling for portable radio communication apparatus

(57) Portable radio communication apparatus which allows operation mode settings to be defined in accordance with a user schedule and more specifically with anticipated operating environment from the user's schedule. More specifically a portable radio communication apparatus 10, e.g. a mobile phone, is provided comprising a storage section 19 storing an operation mode table, in which at least one operation mode is stored that defines operation of the apparatus suitable for the operating environment, a schedule management section 13, which stores schedule information of a user and manages the action schedule, an operation mode timetable generating section 14 which generates timetable information on the basis of the schedule management information, and an operation mode control section 15 which detects and uses the identified appropriate operating mode. Operation mode settings may comprise, upon detection of an incoming call, generation of a ringing tone, vibrator activation, LED activation, or comprise settings for key click sound generation or turning on/off a power supply. Furthermore the storage section may store a keyword table storing keywords representing an operation environment associated with each operation mode. Furthermore the operation mode control section may utilise flags, having associated keywords, to detect a change in operating mode at a time set (or indicated) by the flag(s).

FIG.1



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FIG. 1

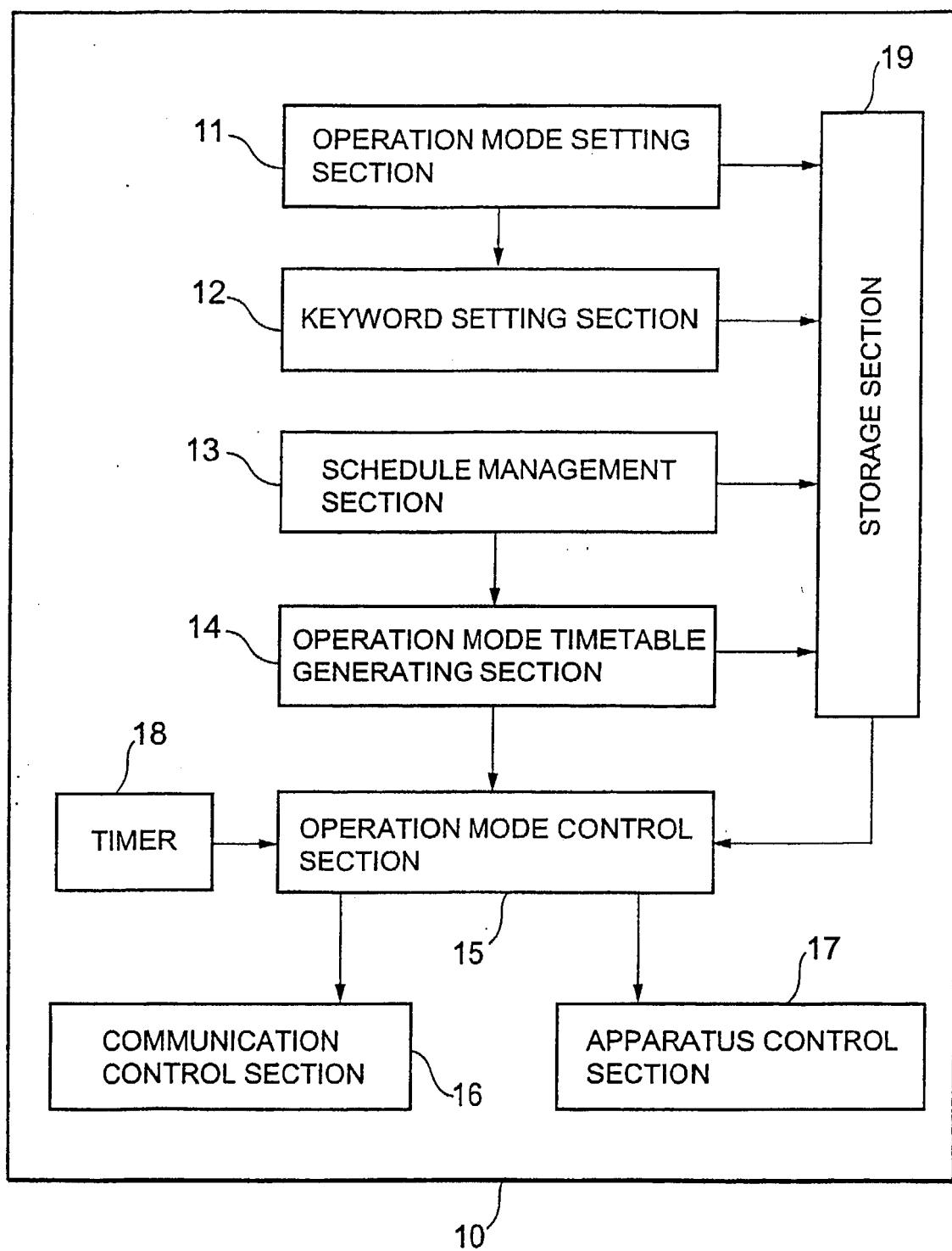


FIG.2

	MODE A	MODE B	MODE C
GENERATION OF KEY CLICK SOUND	OFF	ON	—
GENERATION OF RINGING TONE	OFF	—	—
OPERATION OF VIBRATOR	ON	—	—
TERMINATION LED LIGHTING (BLINKING)	OFF	—	—
APPARATUS POWER SUPPLY	ON	ON	OFF
RADIO SECTION POWER SUPPLY	ON	OFF	—

FIG.3

	KEYWORD
MODE A	MEETING
MODE B	HOSPITAL, TRAIN, BUS
MODE C	CONCERT

FIG.4

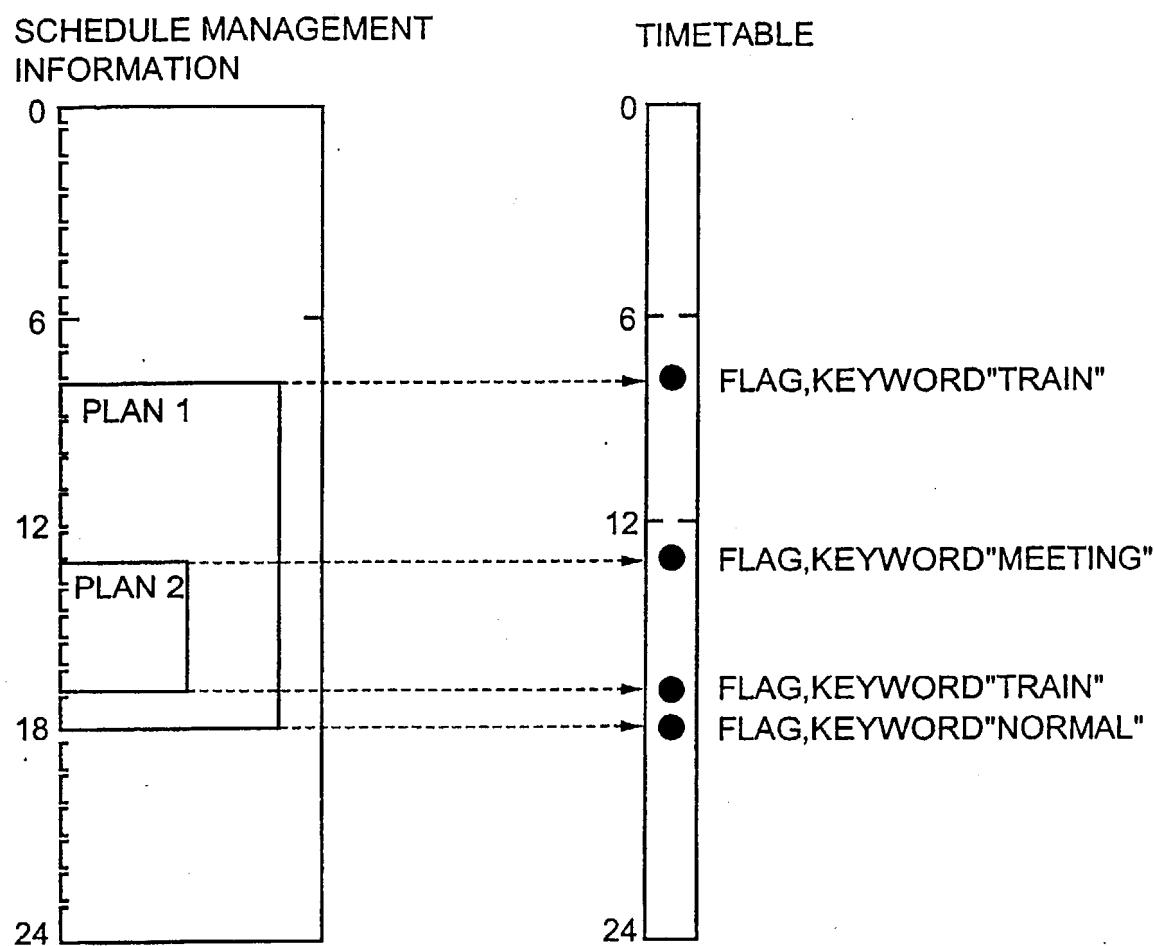


FIG.5

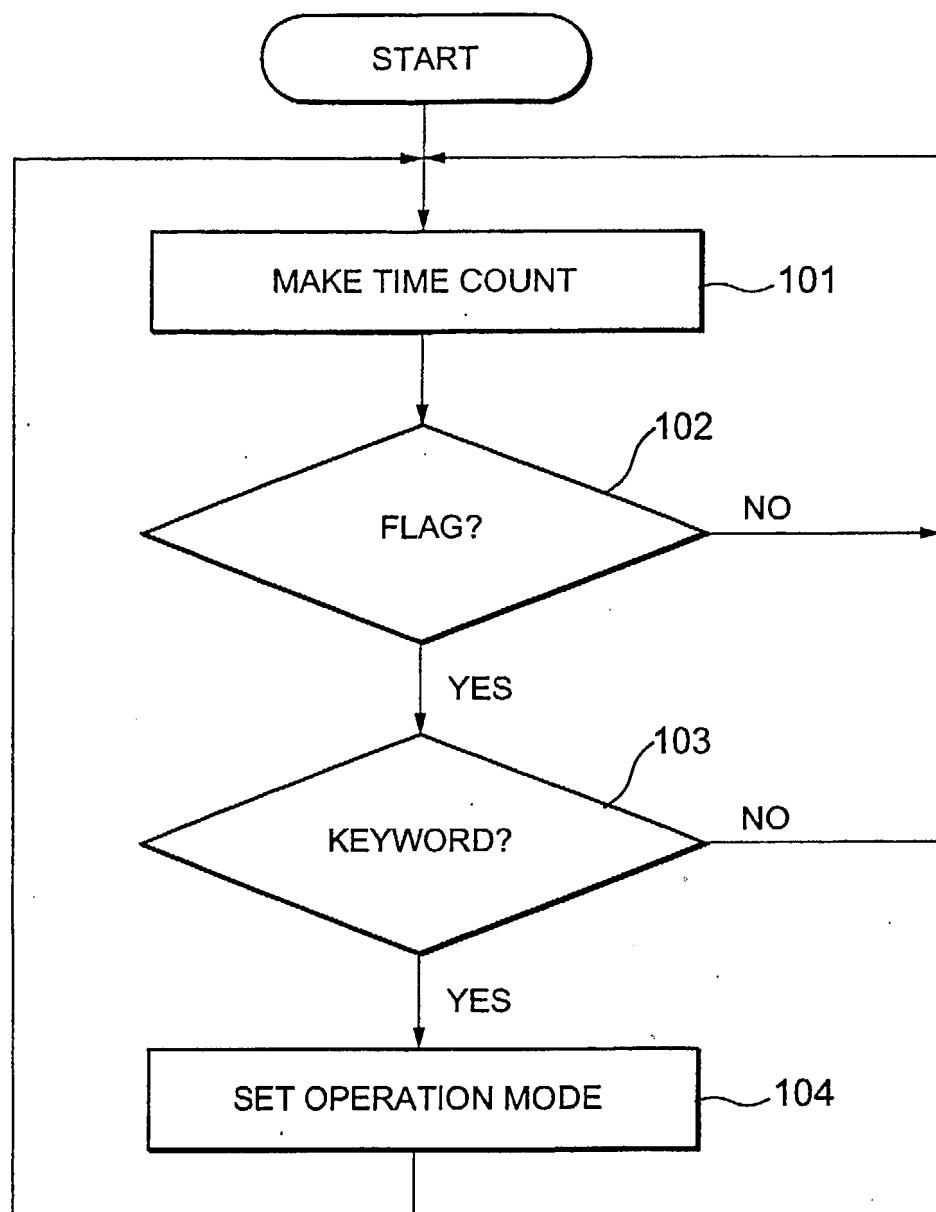


FIG.6

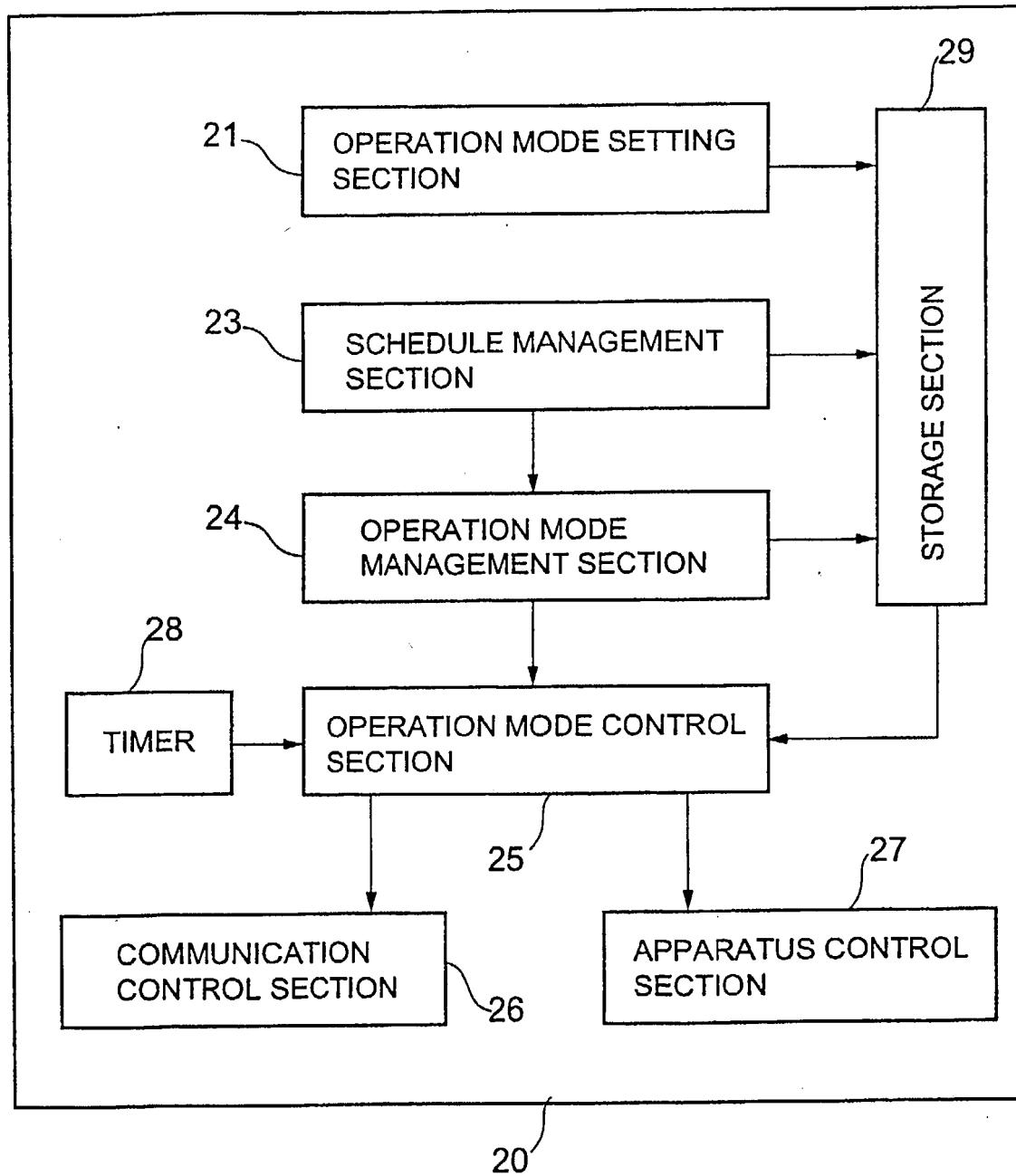


FIG.7

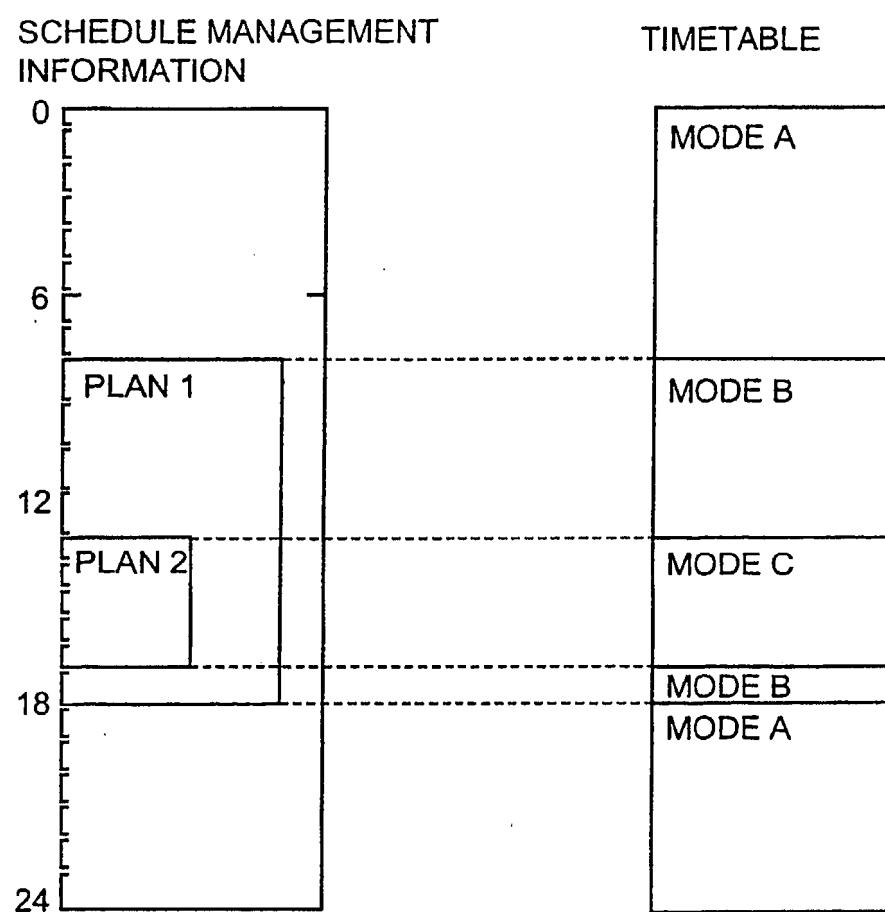
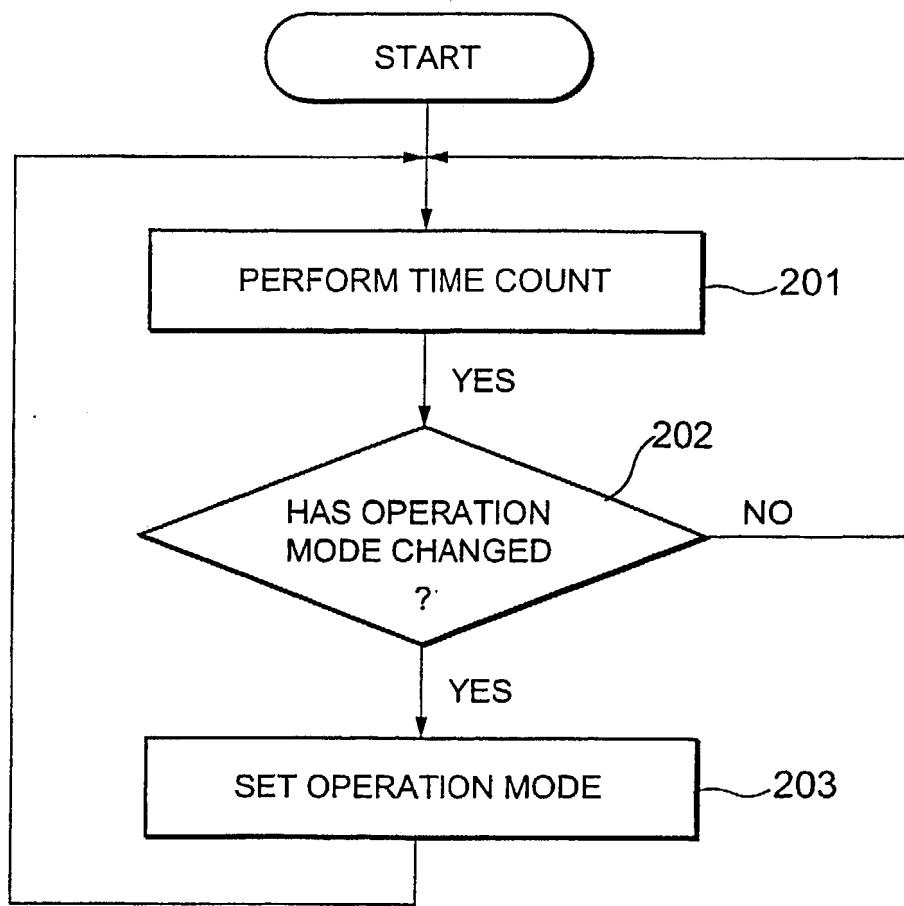


FIG.8



PORTABLE RADIO COMMUNICATION APPARATUS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention:

5 The present invention relates to a portable radio communication apparatus such as a cellular phone set or portable information terminal equipment and, more particularly, to a portable radio communication apparatus having a schedule management function associated with a
10 user's actions.

Description of the Prior Art:

With the widespread use of cellular phone sets, more people have indicated problems with their manner of use in public place and similar situations. The problems are
15 mainly associated with the generation of a ringing tone and the influence of electromagnetic waves generated by cellular phone sets. More specifically, a ringing tone of a cellular phone set in a public place such as a train or theatre annoys others, and electromagnetic waves affect
20 medical equipment in a hospital or crowded train.

For this reason, current cellular phone sets have operation modes capable of setting operations in various situations. For example, the cellular phone set has an operation mode generally called the "manner mode" in which

the cellular phone set operates while minimizing the inconvenience to surrounding people.

According to an example of the manner mode, when this mode is set, the generation of a key click sound that is generated when a key is pressed is suppressed, and the generation of a ringing tone upon reception of an incoming call is suppressed. Instead of these sounds, vibrations of a vibrator are used to notify the user of an incoming call. In addition, the sensitivity of the microphone improves during speech communication to allow the user to communicate in a low voice.

Operation modes may be set in accordance with various situations by combining settings that indicate, for example, whether to turn on/off a key click sound, turn on/off a ringing tone, change a tone, turn on/off a vibrator upon reception of an incoming call, and turn on/turn off/blink an LED.

In consideration of the adverse effects of electromagnetic waves on medical equipment and the like in a hospital, crowded train, and the like, as well as ringing tones, settings that indicate, for example, whether to turn on/off the power supply and turn on/off the radio section power supply may be added as setting items for the operation mode.

A current cellular phone set can transmit/receive

electronic mail and connect to the Internet as well as having the telephone function. That is, the cellular phone set tends to serve as a multimedia terminal staying in close touch with daily life. In addition, the cellular 5 phone set is expected to be further equipped with functions as those of a portable information terminal equipment, e.g., the functions of managing an address book, storing memos, and managing a schedule, and hence is evolving into a most familiar personal portable 10 information terminal equipment.

In a conventional cellular phone set, the user switches operation modes associated with the settings that indicate, for example, whether to turn on/off a ringing tone upon reception of an incoming call and turn on/off a 15 vibrator. If, however, the user forgets to perform switching operation, a ringing tone may be generated in a public place or radio waves may affect the surroundings.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention has been made to solve the 20 above problems in the conventional portable radio communication apparatus, and the preferred embodiment has as its object to provide a portable radio communication apparatus such as a cellular phone set which can reliably switch operation modes.

25 According to a first aspect of the present invention,

there is

provided a portable radio communication apparatus having a schedule management function of storing and managing an action schedule of a user, comprising a storage section 5 storing an operation mode table, in which at least one operation mode that defines operation suitable for an operation environment of the portable radio communication apparatus is associated with settings for making sections operate in the operation mode, and a keyword table, in 10 which a keyword representing the operation environment is associated with the operation mode, a schedule management section for storing schedule management information indicating an action schedule of the user and managing the action schedule of the user, an operation mode timetable 15 generating section for generating a timetable by extracting time at which the user starts acting, a flag being set at the time, and a keyword in the keyword table, the flag being added to the keyword, from the schedule management information, and an operation mode control 20 section for, when the time at which the flag is set has come, detecting the operation mode corresponding to the keyword added to the flag from the keyword table, detecting settings for the respective sections corresponding to the operation mode from the operation 25 mode setting table, and using the settings.

According to the portable radio communication apparatus of the first aspect, a timetable to which a flag indicating the time at which operation modes are switched is added is automatically generated in advance by the 5 operation mode timetable generating section on the basis of the schedule management information generated by the schedule management section. At the predetermined time, therefore, the operation mode of the portable radio communication apparatus is automatically switched to the 10 operation mode corresponding to the timetable automatically generated by the operation mode control section.

According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is 15 provided a portable radio communication apparatus having a schedule management function of storing and managing an action schedule of a user, comprising a storage section storing an operation mode table, in which at least one operation mode that defines operation suitable for an 20 operation environment of the portable radio communication apparatus is associated with settings for making sections operate in the operation mode, a schedule management section for storing schedule management information indicating an action schedule of the user and managing the 25 action schedule of the user, an operation mode management

section for generating a timetable, in which an operation mode used at predetermined time is set in advance, on the basis of the schedule management information, and an operation mode control section for, when the time at which 5 operation modes are switched in the timetable has come, detecting settings for sections which correspond to a new operation mode from an operation mode setting table, and using the settings.

According to the portable radio communication 10 apparatus of the second aspect, a timetable for switching operation modes is automatically generated by the operation mode management section on the basis of the schedule management information generated by the schedule management section. At the predetermined time, therefore, 15 the operation mode of the portable radio communication apparatus is automatically switched to the operation mode corresponding to the timetable automatically generated by the operation mode control section.

The operation mode in either of the first and second 20 aspects defines at least one of communication control settings including settings that indicate whether to generate a ringing tone upon reception of an incoming call, activate a vibrator upon reception of an incoming call, and turn on or blink an LED upon reception of an incoming 25 call.

The operation mode in either of the first and second aspects defines at least one of apparatus control settings including settings that indicate whether to generate a key click sound upon key operation, turn on an apparatus power supply, and turn on a radio section power supply.

The portable radio communication apparatus in either of the first and second aspects comprises a cellular phone set.

The portable radio communication apparatus in either 10 of the first and second aspects comprises a portable information terminal equipment.

As is obvious from the respective aspects, according to the present invention, since operation modes are automatically switched, the portable radio communication apparatus can always be used according to the settings for an operation mode suitable for the operation environment. For example, this makes it possible to prevent the user from forgetting to turn off the power in a concert or turn off a ringing tone during a meeting. This therefore 20 allows the user to behave properly and prevents him/her from annoying others.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Preferred features of the present invention will now

be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

5 Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing the main constituent elements of a cellular phone set according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a view showing an example of an operation mode setting table in the first embodiment;

10 Fig. 3 is a view showing an example of a keyword table in the first embodiment;

Fig. 4 is a view for explaining the operation of an operation mode timetable generating section in the first embodiment;

15 Fig. 5 is a flow chart showing the operation of an operation mode control section in the first embodiment;

Fig. 6 is a block diagram showing the main constituent elements of a cellular phone set according to the second embodiment of the present invention;

20 Fig. 7 is a view for explaining the operation of an operation mode management section in the second embodiment; and

Fig. 8 is a flow chart showing the operation of an operation mode control section in the second embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

25 Several preferred embodiments of the present

invention will be described below with reference to the accompanying drawings. Although each embodiment will exemplify the cellular phone set, the present invention is not limited to this.

5 Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing the main constituent elements of a cellular phone set 10 according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

Referring to Fig. 1, the cellular phone set 10 has an operation mode setting section 11, keyword setting section 10 12, schedule management section 13, operation mode timetable generating section 14, operation mode control section 15, communication control section 16, apparatus control section 17, timer 18, and storage section 19.

The operation mode setting section 11 sets at least 15 one operation mode suitable for a predetermined operation state in accordance with a user request and stores it as an operation mode setting table in the storage section 19. For example, in such an operation mode, the following 20 settings are set: whether to generate a ringing tone or vibration upon reception of an incoming call, whether to activate/inactivate (turn on/off) a termination LED, whether to generate a key click sound, whether to energize a radio section power supply, and the like. On the 25 operation mode table, at least one operation mode and corresponding settings are recorded.

The keyword setting section 12 sets a keyword representing an operation state corresponding to the operation mode set by the operation mode setting section 11 in accordance with a user's request and records it as a 5 keyword table in the storage section 19.

The schedule management section 13 records a user's action schedule corresponding to a date as schedule management information in the storage section 19.

The operation mode timetable generating section 14 10 automatically generates a timetable for switching operation modes on the basis of the schedule management information and records it in the storage section 19.

In the timetable, flags are set in correspondence with the start and end times of the respective actions. 15 If the keyword set by the keyword setting section 12 is included in information indicating a scheduled action that starts at given time, the keyword is added to the corresponding flag. If no keyword is included in information representing the scheduled action that starts 20 at that time, no keyword is added to the flag. If there is no scheduled action that starts at the time, "normal" is added as a keyword to the flag.

The operation mode control section 15 performs time management in accordance with the time indicated by the 25 timer 18. When the time corresponding to a given flag in

the timetable has come, the operation mode control section 15 detects an operation mode corresponding to the keyword added to the flag from the keyword table, and detects the respective settings corresponding to the operation mode 5 from the operation mode setting table. The operation mode control section 15 then gives the communication control section 16 and apparatus control section 17 instructions for the respective settings. Note that if "normal" is detected as a keyword, each setting is restored to a 10 normal state.

The communication control section 16 controls originating/terminating operations of a phone or the like in accordance with the instructions for the respective settings given by the operation mode control section 15, 15 e.g., instructions for settings about whether to generate a ringing tone or vibration upon reception of an incoming call, turn on/off the termination LED.

The apparatus control section 17 controls turning on/off of a key click sound, energization of the apparatus 20 power supply or radio section power supply, and the like in accordance with instructions from the operation mode control section 15.

The timer 18 manages time and a time interval in the cellular phone set 10.

25 The storage section 19 stores the data generated by

other sections.

An example of the operation of the cellular phone set 10 according to the first embodiment of the present invention will be described next.

5 Settings for the operation modes desired by the user have already been recorded as an operation mode setting table in the storage section 19 by the operation mode setting section 11.

Fig. 2 shows an example of the settings for the 10 operation modes. Referring to Fig. 2, three operation modes, namely modes A, B, and C, are set in the first embodiment. In the mode A, "key click sound" is OFF, "generation of ringing sound" is OFF, "termination vibration (vibrator)" is ON, "termination LED lighting" is 15 OFF, "apparatus power supply" is ON, and "radio section power supply" is ON. In the mode B, "key click sound" is ON, "apparatus power supply" is ON, "radio section power supply" is OFF, and "radio section power supply" is OFF. In this mode, since "radio section power supply" is OFF, 20 there is no need to make settings for the vibrator and termination LED. In the mode C, "apparatus power supply" is OFF, and hence there is no need to make settings for "key click sound", "generation of ringing tone", "vibrator", "termination LED lighting", and "radio section 25 power supply".

Keywords representing operation states corresponding to the respective operation modes have been set by the keyword setting section 12 in accordance with user's requests and recorded as a keyword table in the storage section 19. One or a plurality of keywords may be set for each operation mode.

Fig. 3 shows an example of the keyword table. Referring to Fig. 3, "meeting" is set as a keyword corresponding to the mode A; "hospital", "train", and "bus" as keywords corresponding to the mode B; and "concert" as a keyword corresponding to the mode C.

A user action schedule has already been recorded as schedule management information in the storage section 19 by the schedule management section 13.

First of all, the cellular phone set 10 generates a timetable from the schedule management information by using the operation mode timetable generating section 14 and records it in the storage section 19.

Fig. 4 shows an example of the correspondence between the schedule management information and the timetable. Referring to Fig. 4, plans 1 and 2 are set in the schedule management information.

According to the schedule of this day, the user leaves home at 8:00, moves to his/her destination by train, holds a meeting at the destination from 13:00 to 17:00,

and moves by train, from 17:00 to 18:00, to the hotel where he/she stays. In plan 1, information indicating that the user is on a business trip from 8:00 to 18:00 and moves by "train" from home to the destination and from 5 destination to the place where he/she stays is recorded. In plan 2, information indicating that the user holds a "meeting" at the destination from 13:00 to 17:00 is recorded.

The keyword "train" for which a flag is set at 8:00 10 is added to the generated timetable. Likewise, the keyword "meeting" for which a flag is set at 13:00 and the keyword "train" for which a flag is set at 17:00 are added to the timetable. No keyword for which a flag is set at 18:00 is added.

15 The telephone exchange 1 then gives the communication control section 16 and apparatus control section 17 instructions for the respective settings.

Fig. 5 is a flow chart showing the operation of the 20 operation mode control section 15. Referring to Fig. 5, the operation mode control section 15 makes time count by using the timer 18 in step 101, and checks in step 102 whether a flag is set at the corresponding time in the timetable.

If no flag is set, the flow returns to step 101 to 25 continue time count. If a flag is set, the operation mode

control section 15 checks in step 103 whether a keyword is added to the flag.

If no keyword is added, the flow returns to step 101 to continue time count. If a keyword is added, the 5 operation mode control section 15 detects an operation mode corresponding to the keyword from the keyword table, and detects the respective settings for the operation mode from the operation setting table. The operation mode control section 15 then gives the communication control 10 section 16 and apparatus control section 17 corresponding instructions.

The cellular phone set 10 controls operation by using the communication control section 16 and apparatus control section 17 in accordance with instructions from the 15 operation mode control section 15.

For example, since the keyword "train" is added to the flag corresponding to 8:00, the cellular phone set 10 automatically operates at 8:00 according to the settings indicating that "generation of key click sound" is OFF, 20 "generation of ringing sound" is OFF, "vibrator" is ON, "termination LED lighting" is OFF, "apparatus power supply" is ON, and "radio section power supply" is ON.

Although the first embodiment of the present invention has exemplified the cellular phone set, the 25 present invention can be applied to a portable information

terminal equipment having a radio communication function. In this case, the arrangement of each section of the portable information terminal equipment which is a characteristic feature of the present invention is the 5 same as that of the cellular phone set 10 in Fig. 1.

The operation mode timetable generating section 14 automatically generates a timetable to which flags indicating the times at which operation modes are switched are added from the schedule management information 10 generated by the schedule management section 13. The operation mode control section 15 then automatically switches the operation modes in accordance with the timetable. This allows the communication control section 16 and apparatus control section 17 to always operate 15 according to operation modes suitable for operation states. For example, this prevents the user from forgetting to turn off the power during a concert or turn off a ringing sound during a meeting. This therefore allows the user to behave properly and prevents him/her from annoying others.

20 A cellular phone set 20 according to the second embodiment of the present invention will be described next.

Referring to Fig. 6, the cellular phone set 20 includes an operation mode setting section 21, schedule management section 23, operation mode management section 25, operation mode control section 25, communication

control section 26, apparatus control section 27, timer 28, and storage section 29.

The operation mode setting section 21, schedule management section 23, communication control section 26, 5 apparatus control section 27, timer 28, and storage section 29 are identical to the operation mode setting section 11, keyword setting section 12, schedule management section 13, communication control section 16, apparatus control section 17, timer 18, and storage 10 section 19 in Fig. 1.

As shown in Fig. 7, the operation mode management section 24 generates a timetable in which operation modes used at the respective times are set on the basis of schedule management information and records it on the 15 storage section 29. According to an example of the method of generating a timetable, information indicating operation modes are set in advance in schedule management information in accordance with user's requests, and operation modes are extracted from the information to be 20 recorded on a timetable. As in the portable radio communication apparatus (cellular phone set) 10 in Fig. 1, the correspondence between operation modes and keywords may be set in advance, a keyword may be extracted from the schedule management information, and an operation mode 25 corresponding to the keyword may be recorded on a

timetable.

The operation mode control section 25 performs time management in accordance with the time indicated by the timer 28, and determines an operation mode on the basis of 5. the timetable generated by the operation mode management section 24. The operation mode control section 25 then detects the respective settings for the operation mode from the operation mode setting table and gives the communication control section 26 and apparatus control 10 section 27 instructions for the respective settings.

Referring to Fig. 8, the operation mode control section 25 operates as follows. First of all, in step 201, the operation mode control section 25 performs time count by using the timer 28, and checks on the timetable in step 15 202 at the corresponding time whether the operation mode has changed. If the operation mode has not changed, the flow returns to step 201 to continue time count. If the operation mode has changed, the flow advances to step 203 to detect the respective settings for the new operation 20 mode from the operation mode table. The operation mode control section 25 then gives the communication control section 26 and apparatus control section 27 corresponding instructions.

The operation mode management section 24 25 automatically generates a timetable for switching

operation modes from the schedule management information generated by the schedule management section 23. The operation mode control section 25 automatically switches the operation modes in accordance with the timetable. As 5 in the cellular phone set 10 in Fig. 1, the communication control section 26 and apparatus control section 27 can always operate in an operation mode suitable for each situation.

While the present invention has been described in its 10 preferred embodiments, it is to be understood that the words which have been used are words of description rather than limitation, and that changes may be made to the invention without departing from its scope as defined by the appended claims.

15 Each feature disclosed in this specification (which term includes the claims) and/or shown in the drawings may be incorporated in the invention independently of other disclosed and/or illustrated features.

20 The text of the abstract filed herewith is repeated here as part of the specification.

In a portable radio communication apparatus, a storage section stores an operation mode table, in which at least one operation mode that defines operation suitable for the operation environment of the apparatus is associated with 25 settings for making sections operate in the operation mode, and a keyword table, in which a keyword representing the

operation environment is associated with the operation mode. A schedule management section stores schedule management information indicating an action schedule of the user, and manages the action schedule. An operation mode timetable generating section generates a timetable by extracting time at which the user starts acting, a flag being set at the time, and a keyword in the keyword table, the flag being added to the keyword from the schedule management information. When the time at which the flag is set has arrived, an operation mode control section detects the operation mode corresponding to the keyword from the keyword table, detects settings corresponding to the operation mode from the operation mode setting table, and uses the settings.

CLAIMS:

1. A portable radio communication apparatus having a schedule management function of storing and managing an action schedule of a user, comprising:

5 (a) a storage section storing an operation mode table, in which at least one operation mode that defines an operation suitable for an operation environment of said portable radio communication apparatus is associated with settings for making sections operate in the operation mode;

10 (b) a schedule management section for storing schedule management information indicating an action schedule of the user;

15 (c) an operation-mode timetable-generating section for generating a timetable on the basis of the schedule management information; and,

20 (d) an operation-mode control section for detecting, when a predetermined time in the timetable has arrived, settings for sections which correspond to a new operation mode from an operation-mode setting table, and using the settings.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in the operation-mode timetable-generating section a timetable is generated in which an operation mode to be used at the predetermined time is set in advance.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the storage section also stores a keyword table, in which a keyword representing the operation environment is associated with each operation mode, wherein in the operation-mode timetable-generating section a timetable is generated by extracting a time at which the user starts an action, a flag being set to that time and a keyword in the keyword table being added to the flag, and wherein in the operation-mode control section the predetermined time corresponds to the time set by the flag, at which time the operation-mode control section detects that operation mode that corresponds to the keyword added to flag from the keyword table.

4. An apparatus according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein in the operation mode defines at least one of communication control settings including settings that indicate whether, upon reception of an incoming call, to generate a ringing tone, activate a vibrator, and/or turn on or blink a LED.

5. An apparatus according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein in the operation mode defines at least one of apparatus control settings including settings that indicate whether to generate a key click sound upon key operation, turn on an apparatus power supply, and/or turn on a radio section power supply.

6. An apparatus according to claim 1, 2 or 3, where-
in said portable radio communication apparatus comprises a
cellular phone set.

7. An apparatus according to claim 1, 2 or 3, where-
5 in said portable radio communication apparatus comprises
portable information terminal equipment.

8. A portable radio communication apparatus sub-
stantially as herein described with reference to and as
shown in the accompanying drawings.



Application No: GB 0122263.7
Claims searched: 1-8

24

Examiner: Adam Tucker
Date of search: 15 April 2002

Patents Act 1977 Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.T): H4L LDDDM, LESF, LEUX, LEUF, LEUG

Int Cl (Ed.7): H04Q 7/22, 7/32, 7/38, H04M 3/42, 3/527, G06F 17/60

Other: Online: WPI, EPODOC, PAJ, IEEE and selected internet sites

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage		Relevant to claims
A, E	GB 2362786 A	SAGEM SA, See whole document	-
A, E	GB 2360914 A	PSION Plc, See in particular page 1 lines 6-10 and page 2 line 13-page 5 line 3	-
A	GB 2343335 A	NEC Corp., See in particular the abstract and page 10 line 9-page 11 line 19	-
A	WO 00/52847 A1	QUALCOMM Inc., See in particular page 2 and Fig. 2	-
X, P	US 20010006893	Yoshioka, See whole document	1-7
X	JP 11046377	SEIKO EPSON Corp., See enclosed PAJ abstract	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.